Oswald's Wife Doubted JFK Conspiracy

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Lee Harvey Oswald's widow, in long-secret testimony released Friday, said that if her husband did assassinate President John F. Kennedy, "I don't think he would be involved in any conspiracy."

Questioned before a New Orleans grand jury during District Attorney Jim Garrison's 1968 assassination investigation, Marina Oswald Porter was asked, "Do you think he was capable of planning, plotting this whole thing by himself?"

"I think so," she said.

"You think he was that intelligent?"

"I would think so. He did not have college education, but he wasn't stupid. Whatever he read, he learned from it. I think he was confused."

Asked about the assassination, the Russian-born Porter said: "If somebody was involved, my belief that if Lee was alone and he did something, I don't think he would be involved in any conspiracy with anybody, in my opinion."

Porter also testified about how her husband told her of firing a shot in Dallas at Edwin Walker, the former Army general dismissed by Kennedy for trying to indoctrinate his troops with right-wing propaganda.

A federal court lawsuit led to Friday's release of testimony by Porter and more than 40 other witnesses who appeared before the grand jury in Garrison's investigation of Clay Shaw, the New Orleans businessman arrested and later cleared on charges of conspiring to kill Kennedy. The suit by the U.S. Assassination Records Review Board, which screens and releases information on the Kennedy assassination, forced release of the documents.

After expressing for years her continued belief that Oswald probably had shot Kennedy, Porter told the U.S. Assassination Records Review Board in 1996 that she then believed he was not the assassin. "I think he was given up to pacify people as a patsy," she said, without elaborating. Oswald was killed by Jack Ruby two days after the Kennedy assassination.

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